United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of
Public Affairs

Selected Speeches and News Releases

Jan. 14 - Jan. 20, 1993

Continued on Inside Cover

Remarks–

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

Release No. 0050.93
Roger Runningen (202) 720-4623

Prepared for delivery by Edward Madigan Secretary of Agriculture January 19, 1993

Last week, wegave you our preliminary recommendations on USDA reorganization. We initially contemplated headquarters reorganization as the first step to improve management at USDA, but General Accounting Office reports and interest by Congress and the media resulted in a shift of priorities to examine county field offices first.

So today I want to announce our final recommendations for restructuring at both the county level and the Washington headquarters. The recommendations for restructuring the USDA hierarchy are consistent with the recommendations for local field offices because they will result in clear lines of responsibility and accountability.

All of these proposals are part of a single package to bring about the first thorough reform of the Department of Agriculture in at least 40 years. When implemented, the net result will be a Department of Agriculture which is more responsive to the public, more accountable to the President and the Congress and more efficient for the public.

On county-based offices, our final recommendations take into account suggestions received in the past week from the states and from the Congress. I am today sending to the state Food and Agriculture Councils and to the state directors of the affected agencies instructions to implement these final recommendations. The plans are due in April. The plans must be fully implemented by January 1, 1995. When complete, USDA will have a county-based structure which is smaller, better equipped, better trained and more efficient. The county-based field structure would be trimmed from the current 7,407 offices to 6,216 offices, a 16 percent reduction. The number of field office locations would be pared from the current 3,700 to 2,664, a 28 percent reduction.

As I mentioned there are also studies on other USDA offices.

I am also sending to Congress and will give to Secretary-Designate Michael Espy recommendations for a major restructuring of the Department of Agriculture headquarters offices in Washington, D.C.

Over the last several decades, Congress has added major new responsibilities to the Department of Agriculture. This has not always been done with a clear view toward efficient management. The piecemeal addition of missions has changed the overall character of the department without changing the overall management.

The department now has 42 separate agencies of which 26 are the operating agencies that carry out USDA programs. We have 14 subcabinet agency officials that require confirmation by the Senate. Ten agencies have been created by law. Responsibilities overlap. Major issues are handled in part by several agencies and different assistant secretaries. Often there is no clear view of how action in one area may affect the outcome in another. Decisions are slowed. Bureaucratic inter-agency competition too often leads to waste of effort and gridlock.

I find that as recommendations converge on the Secretary of Agriculture for final decisions it is like 26 lanes of traffic merging into one at rush hour. The honking and the jostling for position is too much. There are too many people reporting to the Secretary of Agriculture.

I am recommending today that the 26 operating agencies in the Department of Agriculture be reduced to 13. I am recommending that 14 subcabinet agency officials requiring Senate confirmation be reduced to 4 undersecretaries. There would be no assistant secretaries handling overlapping responsibilities. There would be no assistant secretaries.

Instead there would be four undersecretaries of agriculture. Each would have jurisdiction over one of the four major functional areas of the department and would have supervisory authority over all programs related to his or her functional area. This would create a clear chain of command, a more reasonable span of control for the secretary and the deputy secretary, improved ability to deal at the policy level with broad "cross cutting" issues and clear accountability for their actions. Similarly, each of the 13 operating agencies would have full jurisdiction over the programs necessary to carry out its mission.

As I said, these recommendations constitute a total package for the reform of the Department of Agriculture. They will require legislation by Congress and acceptance by the incoming Secretary of Agriculture, who would add his own adjustments. From my experience of working with the Department of Agriculture for 18 years as a member of the House Agriculture Committee, and from my experience as Secretary, I feel confident that these recommendations will aid the process of governing. They will give the Nation's citizens and taxpayers better and more responsive services from the

Department of Agriculture at less cost. I hope they will be diligently pursued by the Congress and the new Administration.

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News Releases

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

Release No. 0041.93
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USDA DECLARES DENMARK FREE OF BSE, A FATAL CATTLE DISEASE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is removing Denmark from its list of countries where bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) exists. BSE is a fatal neurological disease affecting cattle and other ruminants.

"BSE did not exist in Denmark until a BSE-infected cow was imported into that country last fall from Great Britain," said Billy G. Johnson, deputy administrator for veterinary services with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

"Our epidemiological investigation has confirmed the disease was limited to that one animal. The cow and the herd into which it was imported were destroyed and the Danish government has taken appropriate steps to prevent reentry of the disease," Johnson said.

Under this interim rule, prohibitions and restrictions placed on Danish importations of certain ruminant products and byproducts, including fresh, chilled and frozen meat in the Sept. 22, 1992, interim rule, would be lifted.

BSE appears to be spread through the use of ruminant feed containing rendered products from infected ruminant carcasses. The disease is not known to exist in the United States.

This interim rule is effective on publication in today's Federal Register.

Comments will be accepted and considered if they are received on or before March 15. An original and three copies of written comments referring to docket 92-141-2 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments may be inspected as soon as received at USDA, Rm. 1141-S, 14th and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

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Release No. 0042.93
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Issued: Jan. 14, 1993

BEWARE OF BARGAIN BIRDS, USDA WARNS BUDGET-MINDED BUYERS

WASHINGTON—If the price of a pet bird for sale at a swap meet or from a street vendor seems too good to be true, chances are the "bargain" will be more than you bargained for—a pet bird that is likely to be sick and up costing far more in veterinary and doctor bills.

And the same cheap bird could cost the poultry industry millions of dollars, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture official.

"If a pet bird is for sale at a cheap price, it is likely the bird was smuggled into the United States and has not met federal health requirements," said Billy G. Johnson, deputy administrator of veterinary services in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Johnson said that during the first three to four months of a year, about 25,000 exotic birds are smuggled into the United States following a winter breeding season in southern countries. Hook-billed tropical birds, such as the Amazon parrot, are the most common illegally imported birds.

"We require pet birds from other countries to be quarantined and tested for 30 days at an APHIS bird import center to help keep communicable diseases out of our country," Johnson said.

Smuggled birds can carry highly contagious diseases, such as exotic Newcastle disease, that can spread to other birds and possibly the unsuspecting human owners.

"An outbreak of exotic Newcastle disease in the commercial poultry flocks could kill millions of domestic birds and cost the poultry industry millions of dollars to eradicate," Johnson said.

People who have contact with birds with exotic Newcastle disease may develop eye inflammations, according to Johnson. Birds with psittacosis, another infectious disease, can transmit the disease to adults, causing flulike symptoms. Young and old people, as well as people with weakened immune systems, can suffer more seriously from psittacosis.

Smuggled birds also can introduce an extremely virulent type of Salmonella into the country. This bacterium, Salmonella enteritidis phagetype 4, causes major human and animal health problems in the foreign countries where it exists.

"Our quarantine requirements on live birds, eggs and poultry products imported from countries where this disease exists are very strict because the health threat is so serious," Johnson said.

Beyond the risks caused to humans and other birds, the illegal trade is reducing the numbers of rare species of tropical birds, he said. Some of the smuggled birds are endangered species that federal agencies are helping to protect.

Johnson recommended that bird buyers take the following actions to help stop the importation of smuggled birds:

—Be suspicious of bargain birds.

—Deal only with reputable bird dealers and pet shops that are established in the bird business.

—Check hook-billed birds for the circular lettered and numbered USDA-approved leg bands. All legally imported birds are banded before release from quarantine.

—Call USDA's Smuggled bird hotline at (301) 436-8073 if activities with birds seem suspect.

—Isolate newly purchased birds from others for at least 30 days. Call your veterinarian immediately if an exotic bird shows signs of disease.

—Know the import requirements for bringing birds into the United States if you plan to buy birds abroad.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For additional information and resources about smuggled birds and USDA's import requirements for exotic birds, contact: Kendra Pratt, USDA-APHIS, Public Information, Room 613 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782; telephone (301) 436-4898.

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Release No. 0043.93
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Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

SCIENTIFIC WORKS BANNED BY STALIN NOW AVAILABLE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14—A Russian's research papers on plant genetics so upset Soviet leader Joseph Stalin that they were banned from publication and ultimately led to the author's death. Fifty years later, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has published in English some of the most important papers of Nikolay Ivanovich Vavilov.

"Vavilov starved to death in prison for opposing Stalin. He died 50 years ago this month on January 26. As a tribute to this great scientist's accomplishments, we now have an English translation of a book that includes his original Russian papers," said Henry L. Shands of USDA's Agricultural Research Service, Beltsville, Md. The Russian version was released in celebration of the 100th anniversary of his birth in 1887.

ARS helped arrange the translation and publication of the English version of "Origin and Geography of Cultivated Plants." It traces the development of Vavilov's scientific theories on the origins of cultivated plants and their wild relatives, said Shands, associate deputy administrator for genetic resources.

According to Shands, Vavilov's exploitation of Mendelian genetics in introducing his theories into plant improvement and his advocacy for hybrid maize, which he saw during a trip to the U.S., led to his downfall. Stalin's belief in the inheritance of acquired characteristics as espoused by Vavilov's rival, Lysenko, a student of Michurin, eventually led to an intellectual conflict and Vavilov's arrest and imprisonment.

"Vavilov's theories were fundamental works in early plant genetic resource studies," Shands said. "His work played an important role in the vast improvement in crop yields and food supplies around the world."

Vavilov founded the Soviet Academy of Agricultural Sciences in 1929 and was its first president. He spent the better part of his scientific career on expeditions aimed at collecting and evaluating a world-wide variety of cultivated plants and their wild relatives.

World War II saw Vavilov's co-workers struggle to safeguard the collections as German troops laid siege to Leningrad (now renamed St. Petersburg).

At the peak of his career in the 1930's, Vavilov was directing a staff of 20,000 at more than 400 research laboratories and stations across the former USSR. He urged his seed collectors to store plant materials for safekeeping at a time when the value of genetic diversity and endangered species was little appreciated, Shands said.

"About 400 wheats and barleys that Vavilov collected and preserved are now stored as seed at our lab in Aberdeen, Idaho," said Shands, referring to the ARS Small Grains Collection.

Vavilov identified eight specific geographic areas around the world where plants evolved into useful crops. He believed that these "centers of diversity" contained the greatest concentration of plant genetic material— especially wild relatives—important to world food production.

Shands said today's hard red winter wheat grown on mid-America's Great Plains for making bread can be traced back to seeds brought from the former Soviet Union.

Over the last 100 years, he said, this country's plant explorers have looked to Russia as a source of genetically valuable crops. Successful ranching on western rangelands, for example, is made possible because livestock now graze orchard grass, clover, bromegrass, meadow fescue and wild rye transplanted from Russia.

He said USDA is preparing a translation of a second book of Vavilov's scientific findings "The Five Continents," telling of his plant expeditions around the world. Vavilov's arrest nd imprisonment kept him from completing the section devoted to the New World.

ARS is currently assisting to computerize information on the plant germplasm collection at the Vavilov Institute, named for the plant scientist, in St. Petersburg, said Richard S. Soper, assistant administrator for ARS's international research programs. Important data on more than 350,000 seed and other germplasm samples are now kept in ledger books.

"Computer access to the institute's data should enable scientists around the world to do an easier, faster job searching for desirable genetic traits in thousands of plants," Soper said. "Other agreements with former Soviet republics involve seeking natural insects and microorganisms to control weeds, insects and other pests of plants in the U.S."

Information about ordering the book containing Vavilov's papers may be obtained by contacting Sheaver Woodfaulk, Cambridge University Press, 40 West 20th St., New York, N.Y. 10011-4211. Ms. Woodfaulk's telephone number is (212) 924-3900, extension 420, and her FAX number is (212) 691-3239.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Henry Shands, associate deputy administrator foı genetic resources, USDA, ARS, Beltsville, Md. 20705. Telephone (301) 504-5059. Richard S. Soper, assistant administrator for international research programs, ARS, USDA, Beltsville, Md. 20705. Telephone (301) 504-5605.

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Release No. 0044.93
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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14—Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality), and the coarse count adjustment (CCA) in effect from 5:00 p.m. today through 3:59 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 21. The user marketing certificate payment rate announced today is in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Jan. 15, through midnight Thursday, Jan. 21.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the Northern Europe (NE) price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 83 percent of the 1992 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 5.66 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

I.	Calculated AWP	43.210 cents per pound
	1992 Base Loan Rate	52.35 cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate	83
II.	USNE Price	62.55 cents per pound
	NE Price	-56.89 cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed	5.66 cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP will be made.

This week's AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price		
NE Price	56.89	
Adjustments:		
Average U.S. spot market location	11.82	
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	1.55	
Average U.S. location	0.31	
Sum of Adjustments		-13.68
Calculated AWP		43.21
Further AWP Adjustment		- 0
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE		43.21 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment	
NE Price	56.89
NE Coarse Count Price	-52.30
	4.59
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton	-3.95
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	0.64 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below the 1991 and 1992 base quality loan rates of 50.77 and 52.35 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Because the AWP is below the 1992-crop loan rate, cash loan deficiency payments will be paid to eligible producers who agree to forgo obtaining a price support loan with respect to the 1992 crop. The payment rate is equal to the difference between the loan rate and the AWP. Producers are allowed to obtain a loan deficiency payment on a bale-by-bale basis.

The USNE price has exceeded the NE price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1992 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the user marketing certificate payment rate is 4.41 cents per pound. This rate is applicable for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to September 30, 1993. Relevant data used in determining the user marketing certificate payment rate are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday through Thursday Period	USNE Current Price	NE Current Price	USNE Minus NE	Certificate Payment Rate 1/
		cents per pound			
1	Dec. 24, 1992	59.10	54.41	4.69	3.44
2	Dec. 31, 1992	60.50	54.85	5.65	4.40
3	Jan. 7, 1993	60.50	55.18	5.32	4.07
4	Jan. 14, 1993	62.55	56.89	5.66	4.41

1/ USNE price minus NE price minus 1.25 cents.

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Release No. 0045.93

UPDATED GLOBAL CHANGE INFO PACKET AVAILABLE FROM USDA

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14—An updated information packet on global climate change is now available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Library.

The packet updates material originally made available in August 1991. It includes reprints of articles supporting and rejecting the global change issue, bibliographies of other readings, a guide to information sources, a directory of organizations, and other materials.

For a free copy of the Global Change Information Packet send a request with a self-addressed mailing label to: Reference Section, Room 111, National Agricultural Library, 10301 Baltimore Blvd., Beltsville, Md. 20705-2351. Contact: Brian Norris, (301) 504-6778.

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Release No. 0046.93
Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206
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USDA ACCEPTS NEARLY 50,000 ACRES INTO PILOT WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14—Farmers and ranchers in nine pilot states received tentative acceptance for enrollment in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Pilot Wetlands Reserve Program, Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan announced today.

Producers are selling permanent easements to USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service to restore cropland and other acreage to productive wetland habitat for future generations," Madigan said. "Landowners in California, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, North Carolina and Wisconsin are participating in this $46 million pilot program."

Under the pilot program, USDA will pay landowners for the acreage covered by the easement and up to 75 percent of needed restoration costs to ensure wetland conditions prevail. Enrolled acreage will be kept permanently as wetland with ownership remaining in the private sector.

Madigan said 2,730 intentions to participate were submitted by eligible owners in June 1992. "By law, we could only accept 50,000 acres for a total cost of $46.4 million," he said. "The 49,888 acres tentatively accepted were among the most cost-effective for the environmental benefits to be derived among the 466,000 acres initially offered."

Madigan said today's announcement of accepted offers is conditional on eligible owners providing an easement deed on the land which is free of other liens and in some instances the contract value verified by an official appraisal.

The following table shows tentatively-accepted acres, by state:

STATE	ACCEPTED ACRES	TOTAL COST
California	6,026.4	$10,768,059
Iowa	5,095.6	5,951,304
Louisiana	14,074.7	9,882,279
Minnesota	705.8	764,220
Mississippi	14,885.0	10,763,893
Missouri	2,668.5	2,752,547
New York	71.9	212,457

North Carolina	4,712.5	3,675,276
Wisconsin	1,647.3	1,287,270
National Total	49,887.7	$46,057,305

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Release No. 0047.93
Sally Klusaritz (202) 720-3448
Diane O'Connor (202) 720-4026

U.S. TO DONATE CORN TO RUSSIAN FEDERATION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14—The United States will donate 300,000 metric tons of corn to the Russian Federation under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food for Progress Program, Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan announced today.

"This agreement, which was signed today in Moscow, shows the continued support of the U.S. government for measures the Russian Federation is carrying out to expand the role of the private sector and improve food supplies," Madigan said.

The $29 million donation will be used to help meet the livestock feed needs of Russian farmers.

The Russian Federation will pay for all ocean transportation, inland transportation, handling, storage and distribution costs within the Russian Federation. In accordance with cargo preference requirements, 75 percent of the commodities will be shipped on U.S. flag vessels.

Under the Food for Progress Program, USDA provides commodities to needy countries to encourage agricultural reform.

The corn will be purchased on behalf of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation on an open tender basis by USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service's Kansas City commodity office. The supply period is fiscal 1993.

For more information, contact James F. Keefer, USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, at (202) 720-5263.

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Release No. 0048.93
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Issued: Jan. 15, 1993

NEW POULTRY IRRADIATION RULE GENERATES CALLS TO HOTLINE

WASHINGTON—Consumer calls about food irradiation have increased since the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service approved poultry irradiation in September 1992.

Susan Conley, manager of the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline, said consumers are calling the Hotline to find out what food irradiation is. "Irradiation uses gamma rays to destroy certain common bacteria," Conley answers. "The government approved the process simply as a matter of public health protection. Irradiation is one safe way to destroy bacteria that can cause foodborne illness, such as salmonella, campylobacter and Listeria monocytogenes."

Poultry is raised in a natural, non-sterile environment, so bacteria may be present, explains Conley. And although any bacteria on poultry can be destroyed by thorough cooking, reduced bacterial levels on raw poultry could help reduce the risk of foodborne illness.

But is food irradiation safe? Not only does USDA say it's safe, so do the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and U.S. Department of Energy, as well as independent scientific committees in the United States, Denmark, Sweden, United Kingdom and Canada.

Food irradiation has received official international endorsement from the World Health Organization and has been approved in 37 countries for more than 40 products.

Many Hotline callers wonder if irradiation is similar to microwaving. Not really, according to Conley. Microwaves are low-energy radio waves that cook food because heat is generated.

Gamma rays, the high-energy waves used in irradiation, are similar to X-rays and ultraviolet rays. But just as a medical X-ray doesn't make your body radioactive and airport scanners don't make you or your suitcase radioactive, irradiation will not make poultry radioactive.

During irradiation, energy passes through food much like a ray of light passes through a window. This energy destroys many of the bacteria that can cause disease, but does not cook the food. The process pasteurizes poultry by using energy, just as milk is pasteurized using heat.

Can irradiation affect the nutritional content of foods? "Because irradiation produces almost no heat within food," says Conley, "there is little decrease in the nutritional content and minimum changes in flavor and texture. However, any form of food processing (heating, freezing, even storing food) has at least a slight effect on the nutrients in foods."

Hotline callers also are wonderigg if all poultry in grocery stores will soon be irradiated. "Irradiated poultry is not yet being marketed," says Conley.

Irradiation of poultry is voluntary, and presently there is only one U.S. plant capable of irradiating poultry. "At most, this plant could irradiate only a very small portion of the U.S. poultry supply," says Conley. "There are, however, other plants interested in this process."

How can consumers identify irradiated poultry in their stores? Home economists on the Meat and Poultry Hotline inform callers that packages of irradiated poultry sold in stores will carry the green, international radiation logo as well as the words "Treated by Irradiation" or "Treated with Radiation."

"This symbol is required on all irradiated foods," says Conley. "The packages must be sealed and labeled before irradiation treatment."

"But just as with any fresh poultry," cautions Conley, "the irradiated product must be kept refrigerated and handled properly. Improper food handling practices can contribute to foodborne illness from any food, irradiated or not."

For more information about irradiation or the safe handling ancooking of poultry, call USDA's Meat and Poultry Hotline (800-535-4555). Home economists and registered dietitians are available to speak with consumers weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern time.

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Release No. 0049.93

USDA/HACU LEADERSHIP GROUP TO MEET IN TEXAS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15—The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Leadership Group will hold their first quarterly meeting of the year on Feb. 4-5 at the University of Texas, Pan American, Edinburg, Texas.

The Leadership Group meets at alternating locations between Washington, D.C. and Hispanic Serving Institutions to review recommendations, implement approved action items and monitor accomplishments. The focus is

on increasing employment opportunities in USDA for students from HACU member institutions.

Six USDA officials and six HACU presidents constitute the leadership group.

Group members will be available for one-on-one press interviews.

Contact: Bruce Erikson, University of Texas, Pan American (210) 381-2741
Phil Villa-Lobos, USDA (202) 720-4026

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Release No. 0051.93
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Issued: Jan. 19, 1993

FACT SHEET STREAMLINING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Secretary Madigan today announced a three-part proposal to reform the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The proposal includes steps to reorganize the department's county-based field structure, additional steps to review the department's other field operations and recommendations for a thorough overhaul of the department's policy and headquarters structure. The result would be improved delivery of services by the USDA. Senate confirmed subcabinet and agency officials would be reduced from 14 to 4. The number of USDA operating agencies would be reduced from 26 to 13. The county-based field structure would be trimmed from the current 7,407 offices to 6,216 offices, a 16 percent reduction. The number of field office locations would be pared from the current 3,700 to 2,664, a 28 percent reduction. The Problem

The Department of Agriculture's organizational structure remains essentially unchanged since the 1930s. It is the third largest civilian agency in the federal government with 14,309 offices here and abroad, the largest network of offices anywhere in the executive branch.

About half of those offices (7,407) deal with the delivery of farm services in most of the nation's more than 3,000 counties. Many are poorly staffed, use outdated technology and simply do not provide an adequate level of serviceto farmers. Some offices have unjustifiably high costs and serve fewer than 50 farmers. Others are located in largely urban areas and are no longer necessary. Still others serve a small geographic area whose services can be combined with an adjacent county for better service and greater efficiency.

The headquarters of the USDA needs streamlining, too. Over several

decades, the department has been assigned missions either by administrative fiat or legislative enactment. The result is a department with too many assistant secretaries who face responsibilities divided among too many agencies. It means a structure that is slow in responding to modern-day challenges such as international competition, advances in biotechnology, opening new markets for traditional crops or providing improved services.

Streamlining the 131-year-old department can strengthen policy development, better achieve program goals at reduced cost, boost the integrity of its management systems and better plan for the future. The Solution

The Secretary, upon taking office in March 1991, made management of the $67 billion department one of his primary goals. He immediately established a management agenda to improve service and efficiency, and in May 1992 announced a joint USDA/OMB team to evaluate local offices as well.

Under the Secretary's proposals:

- Heads of the Food and Agriculture Councils (FAC) in 48 states were instructed today by letter and public notice in the Federal Register to develop detailed plans to close and co-locate 1,191 county-based offices of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, <pp>Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration and the area offices of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. Services for farmers will be improved through more co-located offices providing "one-stop" shopping for farm services.
- The consolidation of offices will mean some upfront costs, but will result in long-term savings. Consolidation of those offices is to be completed by January 1, 1995.
- Services at remaining offices will be streamlined to make doing business with the USDA more "user friendly." Improvements include compatible computers, installation of facsimile equipment, toll-free "800" telephone numbers, touch-screen display computers to help in program signup and unstaffed kiosks offering general information on farm programs and technical assistance.
- Employee impacts of all of the Secretary's proposals will be handled through retirement, attrition or reassignment. Employees now working in offices slated for consolidation will be offered positions in nearby offices to avoid worker dislocation.
- At Washington headquarters, the Secretary said functions of the USDA should be consolidated among the Secretary, Deputy Secretary and four Under Secretaries. This means reducing from 14 to 4 the current number

of Senate-confirmed USDA subcabinet and agency executives.

- The number of USDA agencies (42) would be reduced sharply. There are now 16 leadership and staff agencies but 26 agencies that deal with day-to-day operations that carry out policies and programs. These 26 agencies would be reduced to 13, and would have jurisdiction over functionally-related programs. Benefits from the Secretary's proposals
- There will be improved services for farmers at the local level, and greater efficiency from top-to-bottom, saving taxpayer dollars in a time of budget constraint.
- Streamlining at the top of USDA means a clear chain of command, an improved ability to deal with "cross-cutting" issues such as water quality, marketing and food safety issues and strengthened accountability to the Secretary, Congress and the public.
- These proposals reinforce the Secretary's call for improved management of the USDA and, with the help of Congress, will result in a department more responsive to customers' needs and more sensitive to the taxpayers' obligations.

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Release No. 0062.93
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UNITED STATES TO DONATE BUTTER TO TUNISIA

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19—The United States will donate 1,000 metric tons of U.S. butter to Tunisia, according to Christopher Goldthwait, acting general sales manager of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service.

The $1.54 million donation will be used by the Tunisian government to generate local currencies from the sales of the commodities, to provide food assistance to the needy and for developmental activities in poor urban neighborhoods.

The donation is being made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation to developing countries. The program is administered by FAS.

The supply period for this donation is fiscal 1993.

For more information, contact James F. Keefer, FAS, (202) 720-5263.

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USDA REVISES PUBLIC LAW 480 COUNTRY ALLOCATIONS FOR FISCAL 1993

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced revised country and commodity allocations for the second quarter of fiscal 1993 under Title I of the Food for Peace Program and the Food for Progress program funded from Title I appropriations.

Madigan said $472 million of the $555.3 million available for Title I and Food for Progress commodity purchases has been allocated for loans. An additional $37.9 million is being held in a reserve to furnish commodities for unforeseen needs during the remainder of the fiscal year.

Since the October announcement of fiscal 1993 allocations (USDA news release 1016-92), the U.S. Department of Agriculture has reallocated $97 million to 12 countries and added $3 million to the Food for Peace Program, Title I reserve. The funds became available because Egypt, a long-time participant in the program, has returned $100 million of its $150 million fiscal 1993 allocation, according to Madigan.

The countries receiving the new allocations include Albania, Armenia, Congo, Estonia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Nigeria, Turkmenistan, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

Other changes since October include new agrements with Costa Rica, Jamaica and Zimbabwe, and program allocations for Belarus, Moldova, Nigeria and Turkmenistan. However, situations can develop that can cause a change in country and commodity allocations during the fiscal year, Madigan said, so these allocations do not necessarily represent final U.S. commitments with participating governments.

Title I of the Food for Peace Program (Public Law 480) is a concessional sales program to promote exports of agricultural commodities from the United States and to foster economic development in recipient countries. The program provides export financing over payment periods of 10 to 30 years, grace periods on payments of principal up to 7 years, and low interest rates.

Countries eligible for the Title I program are developing countries experiencing a shortage of foreign exchange earnings and having difficulty meeting all of their food needs through commercial channels. The factors that determine priorities for country allocations include food needs, potential for becoming a U.S. market and improvement of food security through

agricultural projects and economic measures. The allocations take into account changing economic and foreign policy situations, market development opportunities, existence of adequate storage facilities and possible disincentives to local production.

The Food for Progress program is an independently authorized program that may be funded with Title I monies. Currently, Food for Progress programs are administered on grant terms and are used to support countries that have made commitments to introduce or expand free enterprise elements in their agricultural economies. These changes involve commodity pricing, marketing, input availability, distribution and private sector involvement. Madigan said that Food for Progress programs are being developed with Albania, Armenia, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan.

For more information contact Charles Delaplane, FAS, (202) 720-3573. Lists of countries and commodity allocations follow.

Second Quarter Fiscal 1993 Public Law 480 Title I Second Quarter Fiscal 1993 Public Law 480 Title I Country and Commodity Allocations

Country	$Min. Total	Undesig-nated	Wheat/ flour a/	Rice
	($Mil.)	*($Mil.)*	*(1,000 Metric Tons)*	
Belarus	5.0	-	-	-
Bulgaria	10.0	-	-	-
Congo	2.0	2.1	-	-
Costa Rica	15.0	-	90.0	-
Cote D'Ivoire	10.0	-	-	43.5
Dominican Republic	10.0	-	30.7	-
Egypt	50.0	-	314.3	-
El Salvador	30.0	-	67.6	-
Estonia	25.0	20.0	-	-
Guatemala	15.0	-	92.2	-
Jamaica	30.0	-	-	66.8
Jordan	30.0	-	184.3	-
Latvia	5.0	-	30.7	-
LithuanOa	25.0	20.0	-	-
Moldova	10.0	5.0	-	-
Morocco	20.0	-	61.4	-

Nigeria	10.0	10.0	-	-
Pakistan	40.0	-	-	-
Philippines	20.0	-	-	-
Romania	10.0	-	61.4	-
Sri Lanka	10.0	-	61.4	-
Tunisia	5.0	-	-	-
Turkmenistan	10.0	5.0	30.7	-
Yemen	5.0	5.0	-	-
Zimbabwe	10.0	5.0	-	-
Subtotal	412.0	72.0	1,024.7	110.3

(Continued: P.L. 480Title I Allocations, 2nd Quarter Fiscal 1993)

Country	Feed Grains	Oilseeds Vegoil	Meals	Tallow
	(- - - - - - - - - -1,000 Metric Tons - - - - - - - -)			
Belarus	50.0	-	-	-
Bulgaria	101.7	-	-	-
Costa Rica	-	-	-	-
Cote D'Ivoire	-	-	-	-
Dominican Republic	-	10.2	-	-
Egypt	-	-	-	-
El Salvador	-	-	30.4	31.1
Estonia	-	-	21.7	-
Guatemala	-	-	-	-
Jamaica	125.0	-	-	-
Jordan	-	-	-	-
Latvia	-	-	-	-
Lithuania	-	-	21.7	-
Moldova	50.8	-	-	-
Morocco	-	20.4	-	-
Nigeria	-	-	-	-
Pakistan	-	81.5	-	-
Philippines	-	-	86.7	-
Romania	-	-	-	-
Sri Lanka	-	-	-	-

Tunisia	-	10.2	-	-
Turkmenistan	-	-	-	-
Zim				
Jabwe	50.0	-	-	-
Subtotal	377.5	122.3	160.5	31.1

FOOD FOR PROGRESS PROGRAM, 2nd Quarter Fiscal 1993

Country	$Mil. Total	Undesig nated	Wheat/ flour a/	Rice
	(Mil.)	(Mil.)	(1,000 Metric bon)	
Albania	15.0 b/	5.0	36.9	6.5
Armenia	18.1 b/	10.0	0.4	22.5
Georgia	17.0 b/	10.0	36.2	-
Kyrgyzstan	10.0 b/	5.0	25.8	-
	60.1	30.0	99.3	29.0
Allocated	472.1			
Unallocated Reserve	37.9			
Total Commodity Loans	510.0			

a/ Wheat flour included as grain equivalent.
b/ The country total includes transportation costs.

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Release No. 0064.93
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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Randall Green today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

—long grain whole kernels, 8.38 cents per pound;
—medium grain whole kernels, 7.54 cents per pound;
—short grain whole kernels, 7.51 cents per pound;
—broken kernels, 4.19 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, loan deficiency payment rates and gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price level are:

—for long grain, $1.49 per hundredweight;
—for medium grain, $1.39 per hundredweight;
—for short grain, $1.40 per hundredweight.

The prices announced today reflect changes in world market price levels and revisions to the estimated milling yields for 1992-crop rice.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EST. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Jan. 26 at 3 p.m. EST.

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Release No 0065.93
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USDA TARGETS MARKETS FOR EXPORT OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced allocations under the 1993 Dairy Export Incentive Program to help exporters of U.S. milk powder, butterfat and cheese compete on the world market.

Export sales will be facilitated through the payment of bonuses by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation. Sales of milk powder, butterfat and Cheddar, Feta, Gouda, cream, Mozzarella and

processed American cheeses will be made through normal commercial channels at competitive world prices.

Bonuses under the program are available to 97 countries totaling 204,020 metric tons of milk powder, 76 countries totaling 48,415 metric tons of butterfat and to 13 countries totaling 5,800 metric tons of Cheddar, Feta, Gouda, cream, Mozzarella and processed American cheeses as allocated in the tables below.

These allocations will be valid until Dec. 31, as provided in the Food Security Act of 1985 and extended by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990.

For more information call Janet M. Kavan (202) 720-5540, or L.T. McElvain, (202) 720-6211.

Quantities of U.S. Milk Powder Eligible for Shipment with Bonuses to Eligible Countries under the DEIP

Country/ Region	Allocation (MT)	Country (MT)	Alloeation
Algeria	25,000	Bangladesh	1,000
Bolivia	1,000	Chile	6,000
China	5,000 1/	Colombia	4,000
Cyprus	250	Ecuador	1,000
Egypt	5,000	Guyana	300
Israel	2,000	Jamaica	1,000
Jordan	3,000	Lebanon	6,000
Maldives	520	Malta	100
Mauritcus	1,000	Mexico	25,000
Morocco	2,000	New Caledonia	250
Peru	2,000	Pakistan	3,000
Saudi Arabia	10,000	Seychelles	100
Sri Lanka	5,000	Suriname	500
Tunisia	4,000	Turkey	1,500
Venezuela	5,000	Yemen	24,000

1/ For sales of nonfat dry milk powder only.

AFRICA	20,000

(Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina, Burundi, Cameroon, Canary Islands, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe)

CARIBBEAN 7,000

(Bahamas, Bermuda, Dominican Republic, Dominica, Grenada, Martinique, Netherlands Antilles, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago)

CENTRAL AMERICA 7,500

(Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama)

PERSIAN GULF 5,000

(Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates)
The Former Soviet Union 20,000
(Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Georgia)

Quantities and Destinations for U.S. Butterfat Eligible for Bonus Awards under the DEIP

Country/ Region	Allocation (MT)	Country (MT)	Allocation
Algeria	5,000	Antigua	80
Bolivia	100	China	1,000 2/
Colombia	150	Cyprus	200
Ecuador	35	EgIpt	5,000
Indonesia	3,000	Israel	200
Jordan	1,000	Lebanon	2,900
Malta	100	Morocco	3,000
Pakistan	1,000	Peru	1,000
Saudi Arabia	2,500	Seychelles	100
South Korea	450	Suriname	100
Tunisia	1,000	Turkey	500
Venezuela	300	Yemen	1,500

2/ For sales of buttyroil only.

AFRICA 6,200

(Angola, Benin, Burkina, Cameroon, Canary Islands,ania, Togo, Zaire)

CARIBBEAN 1,500

(Bahamas, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Netherlands Antilles, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago)

CENTRAL AMERICA 500

(El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua)

PERSIAN GULF 5,000

(Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates)
The Former Soviet Union 5,000
(Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Georgia)

Quantities and Destinations for U.S. Cheddar, Feta, Gouda, Cream, Mazzarella and Processed American Cheese Eligible for Bonus Awards under the DEIP

Country/ Region	Allocation (MT)	Country (MT)	Allocation
Algeria	2,000	Cyprue	200
Egypt	1,500	Jordan	100
Malta	300	Morocco	100
Saudi Arabia	500 3/	Turkey	100

3/ Excludes processed American cheese.

Persian Gulf 1,000
(Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates)

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